

Benevolent Assoc.

by Capt. Fred Johnstone (Fltg./G4)

It all started with a chunk of cheese.

There has always been a "benevolent" organization of sorts in Rochester from the inception of the Village Fire Brigade in 1817. The need became apparent when the first volunteer became injured manning the bucket line or pulling a burning shed away from the building next door. If he couldn't work, he couldn't feed his family, let alone get medical treatment for his injuries. It became obvious from the beginning that if the village was to have fire protection, the protectors would need assurances for themselves and more importantly, for their families.

Until 1835, these assurances took the form of a loosely organized fund for the benefit of injured and deceased firemen and their dependents. When there was a need, there would be a solicitation for donations from Department members and the general public. In good times, the solicitation would go well but in harder times the donations sometimes fell short of what was needed for the Department to take care of its own.

Recognizing the need for a permanent fund substantial enough to honor its obligations in good times and lean, a citizen dairy farmer from Pulaski, in Oswego County, Colonel Thomas S. Meachum, offered to give the young City a mammoth piece of cheese, weighing several hundred pounds, to auction off in small pieces, the proceeds from which would serve as the nucleus for a permanent benevolent fund.

On October 13, 1835, the cheese auction was held, and being well attended by Rochester society, it

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E13 Adopts P.S. #2

We'd like to commend and thank the firefighters of Engine 13 (640 S. Plymouth Ave.) for their hard work and enthusiastic support of the Department's Adopt-A-School Program. During the 2001/02 school year the firefighters read to No. 2 School students every Wednesday, donated and raffled off a bike and also collected over 250 books for the students. The Fire Department's Adopt-A-School Program teams up fire companies with a school in their district. At the beginning of each school year the officers and firefighters meet with the school principal and teachers and devise a plan to mix with various classes and students on a regular basis. The program typically consists of the firefighters reading to the students, eating lunch with them, showing the kids the fire trucks and teaching them fire safety and prevention. The firefighters become role models and their visits are eagerly anticipated by the children.

Capt. Bart Joseph, Engine 13's station commander, sees to it that each group at the station is active in the program and even his daughter, Angie, got involved last year while she was a senior at Kendall High School. As a member of the Kendall Chapter of the National Honor Society, she and her fellow members organized a children's book drive. They collected between 150 and 200 books from parents and staff and then gave them to Engine 13. In addition, the firefighters collected books and together they were able to donate over 250 to the school, which is located at 190 Reynolds St. A 21-speed bike, also donated by the firefighters, was raffled off to a lucky student during the school's Reading Carnival Celebration on June 19.

Congratulations to Engine 13 and a very special thank you to Angie Joseph and the Kendall High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. Your participation is greatly appreciated by the Fire Department and the teachers and students of No. 2 School.



F.F. Roger Rebman (E10/G3), pictured above to the right, keeps the procession in line as the firefighters, pipe and drum bands and fire trucks make their way to St. Michael's Church on September 8 for the 9/11 Memorial Mass: "A Celebration of Hope and Remembrance." For more on the mass, see page 2.

Honoring September 11

On the one year anniversary of 9/11 a ceremony was held at the Public Safety



Lt. Jonathan Young at the podium singing the National Anthem.

Building in remembrance of all the lives that were lost on that tragic day. The ceremony was organized by staff of the Police and Fire Departments, with Sgt. Carlos Garcia and Capt. Dan McBride serving as the Masters of Ceremony.

The program included remarks by Deputy Mayor Jeffrey Carlson, Police Chief Robert Duffy, and Deputy Chief Bruce Yanz (who was the Acting Fire Chief that day). However, the most heartfelt and profound remarks of the ceremony came from Nora Cocco, the sister of FDNY Lt. Joseph Leavey. On 9/11 Lt. Leavey responded to the World Trade Center with his company, Ladder 15, and was one of 343 firefighters to lose his life.

Rochester Fire Lieutenant Jonathan Young (E13/G2) sang the National



DC Bruce Yanz

them, and was joined by many of those in attendance. A group of roughly 250, made up of Hall of Justice, PSB, PSTF and City employees, were on hand for the ceremony. Other vocalists included Blair Thompson and Sierra Bennet of the School of the Arts and Emily Kirchoff of the Eastman School

of Music. Lt. Steve Erb (EMS Office) offered opening remarks and Engine 13 firefighters were on hand for the sounding of the sirens at 10:05 a.m. and 10:27 a.m., the times at which the Twin Towers collapsed. The lowering and raising of the flag was performed by the RFD's Color Guard and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard. Pastor David Singleton, a retired Rochester firefighter, gave the

invocation.

Firefighter Darrin Batty (Q9/G1) played the drum and Gates Police Officer Jim Vanderlowe played the bagpipe. Both are members of the Keystone Drum and Pipe Band, which is made up of firefighters and police officers. They perform at several Fire Department events each year and their participation is always appreciated and makes every ceremony special.

The organizing committee would like to thank the above mentioned individuals for their support and involvement in the ceremony. It was a very moving ceremony and a fitting tribute to all who perished.

Pictured below are the pipe and drum bands that took part in the 9/11 mass at St. Michael's Church.



Remembrance Mass

On the evening of Sunday, September 8, a group of approximately 150 city and county firefighters, police officers and EMS personnel, lead by a number of pipe and drum contingents, made their way down N. Clinton Ave. to St. Michael's Catholic Church for a 9/11 memorial mass.

As they were ushered into the church, friends, family and members of the church's congregation stood in respect for all the public safety personnel present. Bishop Matthew Clark was the presider of the celebration, which was organized by Fr. Peter Deckman, the Pastor of St. Michael's, and members of the church. A beautiful liturgy consisting of hymns, readings from the Old and New Testaments, a homily by Bishop Clark and a reflection by Major Reel of the Salvation Army were woven together throughout the mass.

St. Michael's had approached Capt. Dan McBride prior to 9/11 about having an annual mass in honor of firefighters and other EMS providers. The plans for the original mass were put on hold after the events of 9/11. It was only natural as we approached the anniversary of the tragedy that St. Michael's be the site for this remembrance. St. Michael's, a cathedral size church, was built in 1888 and has Rochester's tallest church steeple, at 225 feet. The church is patterned after Germany's Cologne Cathedral and was financed primarily by German immigrants who mortgaged their homes.

Quilts

On August 29, students of Hillside Children's Center, 1183 Monroe Ave., presented a beautiful quilt that they had made to Chief Madison and the firefighters of Quint/Midi 9 during a ceremony at the fire station. The children came up with the idea and the design for the quilt, picked out the fabric (red, white and blue), and did all of the cutting, hand stitching and sewing themselves. They did a remarkable job and deserve a lot of praise. The children said that they wanted to recognize the service that firefighters provide to the community and also honor the anniversary of 9/11. Lt. Jim Russell, the station company officer, stated how appreciative he was to accept the quilt on behalf of the members of Quint 9 and all Rochester firefighters. The quilt is currently on display at the Public Safety Building.

Fire Chief Floyd Madison, Battalion Chief Jim McGovern, Lt. Jim Russell and his crew at Quint and Midi 9, Monroe and Alexander, gratefully accepted this lovely quilt, handmade by the kids of the Hillside Children's Center. The children chose Q9 because they're the Center's first in company and also because of the bond they feel with the firefighters.



The Churchville-Chili Neighborhood Group of the American Sewing Guild presented Chief Madison with a beautiful hand-sewn wall hanging quilt on September 26. The "Patriot Quilt," pictured above, was made from a kit that was donated by Jo-Ann fabric stores across the country to the American Sewing Guild, which in turn sent the kits on to their charter groups. The Churchville-Chili group donated their time and exceptional sewing skills to assemble a total of five quilts, of which one was given to the RFD with the remainder going to other local fire departments. The Fire Chief thanked the women who were on hand to present the quilt and gratefully accepted it in remembrance of the many FDNY heroes on 9/11. The quilt is proudly displayed on a wall in the Fire Chief's Conference Room.

Quint 5 on 9/11/02

On September 11, firefighters of Quint/Midi 5, 57 Gardiner Ave., participated in a number of ceremonies honoring those who died in the attacks one year ago. They left work that day overwhelmed by the outpouring of gratitude and support for the work they do.

The day began with a flag ceremony at Arch Chemical on McKee Rd. at 8:46 a.m. During the ceremony the firefighters were specifically acknowledged. They returned to quarters and between 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., they conducted a flag raising ceremony, which was replicated by fire companies throughout the country. Three classes from No. 16 School attended the ceremony, as did several neighbors and friends. An RIT photo journalism student in attendance took photos. Shortly after 10:30 a.m., the firefighters attended another flag ceremony at the Presbyterian Home. Staff had told them that they would retreat the flag which was currently flying and that had been flying on 9/11 and that it would be replaced with a new one. The firefighters would then present the retired flag to a veteran who was a resident at the home. The flag was retreated as planned and all the firefighters carried it into the auditorium where they folded it in the presence of the residents. As they were folding it, the staff read a chronology of

what each fold symbolizes. They then surprised the firefighters by formally presenting it to Quint 5. Firefighters gratefully acknowledged the gift and told the staff and residents that the flag and a description of the ceremony would be given a permanent place of honor at the fire station. The staff and residents then returned to the flag pole and firefighters posted the new colors.

The next ceremony took place at Lightnin Mixers, 135 Mt. Read Blvd., at 11:50 a.m. State fire instructor John Ellis, an employee of the company, had invited the firefighters to be present for a very moving ceremony which included bagpipes, speeches and a wreath presentation at their flag pole.

The last ceremony of the day was at No. 16 School on Post Ave. This event had been pre-arranged by Lt. Crandall and Ms. Barb Denigris, a teacher at the school. Many students and teachers were assembled on the front lawn at 1:45 p.m. to dedicate a tree to the victims on 9/11. Quint 5 was presented with money that the children had collected over the past year and that they wanted to go to the children of the firefighters who died on 9/11. The firefighters spoke briefly and thanked the students and teachers for their donation. Arrangements have been made to send the money to the Widows and Children's Fund/WTC in New York City.

Dear RFD...



July 16, 2002

Dear Chief Madison:

I wanted to take a quick moment to thank the three firefighters [Marc Strazdins and Maria Gonzalez (both of CREU) and Daniel Caufield (E13/G1) who presented yesterday to our Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School Pre-International Baccalaureate Programme Enriched Health Classes.

Firefighters Marc Strazdins, Maria Gonzalez and Daniel Caufield, for the Community Relations and Education Unit, were very positive and shared how learning critical skills like CPR is an important component for all to have and know. It was clear from the student feedback that they will remember the valuable lessons that the presentation conveyed.

Also, thanks to Lt. Auxier for helping me coordinate this important presentation. Please accept my thanks and that of the entire IB Programme, and please understand how deeply we appreciate your efforts on behalf of this school.

Sincerely,

Laurel Avery-DeToy
House Administrator

September 16, 2002

Dear Dan [Capt. McBride],

I just wanted to thank you for all you did for the people who had perished on 9/11. The mass you organized was beautiful and a real tribute to all the firefighters, policemen and other emergency services workers. I am sure it was not easy to put it together, however, I wanted to let you know how much it meant to be involved in the mass. My family and I really appreciated it. Thank you for all of your kindness over the past couple of months. My brother Michael had always said that all firefighters are brothers and that they will always take care of each other's families. The Rochester Fire Department has certainly proven his statement. I am sure he is looking down at you guys and

smiling on how nice you have been to his family. Thanks again!

God Bless,

Mary, Brendan, Amanda &
Diana Lynch and the Boyle Family

Dear Fire Chief,

On Wednesday, May 29, at about 5:30 p.m., I witnessed your firefighters rescue a man from the Genesee River, at the Ford St. Bridge. These men acted with great speed and professionalism. It seems that doing such a job is difficult enough already, but add in the heavy storms that were in the area as well, and these men should be praised. There was a ladder truck and smaller fire engine with a "3" on them and a fire engine with "13" on it. Others arrived after the man was rescued, but I did not see the numbers.

I hope it is made clear to these men that they are appreciated. As a taxpayer I am glad Rochester is protected by men and women with such a high level of caring and ability. I offer thanks to you and especially to them for a job well done, not just Wednesday, but every day.

My wife has offered a suggestion that I believe a good one. Since we are grateful to have such heroes, but do not want any recognition as a result, we will simply sign this note with the feelings that wrote it...

Thank you and God Bless You All

Sprucing Up Headquarters

Engine 17 and Rescue 11 firefighters pitched in and bought red paint and the impressive new gold lettered company identification signs that now adorn the area above the overhead doors at headquarters (Chestnut and Andrews Sts.). The firefighters did all of the painting, which included four overhead doors and the station's front door. The signs, which stand out nicely on a black background, were made up for the following bays: Deputy Chief, Engine 17, Rescue 11 and Haz Mat 1 & 2. The total cost came to \$1000 and was paid for entirely by the



Muslims Honor RFD

Leaders of the local Islamic community presented a plaque to the RFD on Tuesday, September 10, during a ceremony at the Islamic Center of Rochester in Brighton. The plaque thanks the Fire Department and Rochester firefighters for the work they do and also pays tribute to the FDNY firefighters who gave all they had to rescue World Trade Center employees on 9/11. It was a very heartfelt ceremony that was attended by then Acting Fire Chief Bruce Yanz and several other governmental and public safety officials, who were honored as well. Many thanks to the center.

New Recruits

The recruits at the PSTF are well into their training with primary instructors Capt. David Kaltenbach, Lt. Mike Sulli and F.F. Danny Pignato of the RFD and Lt. Skip Dorgan of the Kodak Park F.D. The City recruits are: James Blaesi, Scott Boyce, Charles Buss, Andrew Dillon, Anthony D'Imperio, Jessie Law, Scott Leary, Robert Mooney, David Obi, Elvis Reyes, Robert Rolf, Donald Sexstone, Edward Tracey, Stephen Weisensel and David Yiannakos. Other recruits in the class are: Thomas Eneedy and Jason Howard (Barnard), Shaun Freeman (Lakeshore), Jason Friday (Kodak) and Thomas Zampatori (Gates).

The graduation ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 12 beginning at 4:00 p.m., at the Strong Museum Auditorium. All are invited!

firefighters. The investment and their painting add greatly to the character of the depression era fire station, which was built in the '30s as a new headquarters for the Fire Department and is still commonly referred to by the same name. Great job!.

Assignment Limits?

by DC Robert Wegman, (LDC/G1)

It's my turn to write an article for the newsletter, and I've kind of wondered how well read the newsletter is by the members of the RFD. Maybe by writing this I'll have a so called "finger on the pulse," of the readership of the newsletter.

Here goes. Maybe there should be term limits on the length of time a member is assigned to a company or staff position.

It seems to me that after a few years that the learning curve of an individual in any company tapers off, maybe the member learned all there is about the district, all there is about the apparatus assigned to the company, familiarized themselves with all the properties in the district. This is great, now what to do for the next decade or so. Some members have spent decades, or their entire career in the same company and group and I'm not sold that this is the best situation.

Some reasons for this follow. Let's say a firefighter graduated from the Training Academy and is assigned to a busy company and learns his craft and spends the next 20 or 30 years in the company. He decides not to pursue a promotion and eventually retires and takes all of his knowledge and experience with him. The result is the Department loses 20 or 30 years of experience in the blink of any eye. I believe the member and the Department would be better served if four or five members would have worked in that busy company for five to seven years each. That way when a member retires, the Department wouldn't lose all of the experience in one shot. And the member would have a much better view of the Department and would maybe find a number of different jobs that would enhance his career and inspire him to pursue advancing in the ranks.

Another example would be two firefighters both entering the Training Academy at the same time, both performing equal at their initial training. Upon graduation, because of the luck of the draw, one firefighter is assigned to a busy company and the other is assigned to a less active company. Both firefighters do a fine job in their assignment and several years later they both take a promotional exam and achieve the same score. Who do you think will be promoted? More than likely it will be the one from the busy company. He may

not be any more qualified, but because he has had more exposure he is definitely noticed more.

With four groups and 18 companies there are 72 different assignments on the Line Division, add in Fire Investigation, the Protectives driver and staff positions at the Academy, Fire Safety, Supply Depot and you have a whole diverse range of positions, each with its unique responsibilities and personalities. I believe that in the past, many members chose to retire because they lost interest in the job. They may not have really wanted to leave, but they became bored or stale and cashed out. Maybe a transfer would have been the answer instead. This would have given them a fresh view of the department from a different perspective and maybe worked well for them and the Department.

I believe that term limits on assignments has some merit. Any action on the subject would require input from a wide range of the Department so potential issues could be addressed. Maybe this article will spark that dialogue.



In July, participants in the department's Firefighter Trainee Program worked with a group from Habitat for Humanity to get the foundation in for a new home on Rauber St. It was a very warm week, but the trainees worked hard to get the job done right.

New Poles & Axes

by F.F. Doug King, (E17/G3)

Recently, the RFD Color Guard obtained two decorative pike poles and axes for ceremonial use. Special thanks to DC Robert Watters for connecting with Rick Schenkel of General Plating, 850 St. Paul St., who donated their services by plating both a chrome and a gold set. Also, thanks

to Gupp Signs, 336 East Ave., for their fine job of gold and silver leaf lettering on the wood handles. All the work done by these individuals is appreciated and will not be forgotten. These tools will be used for many years to come for promotions, graduations, retirements and other types of formal ceremonies.

Pictured below are F.F.s Chris Cybul, Roger Rebman, Doug King and Lt. Scott Owen.



MMRS

by Lt. John Peckham, (FAC)

It'll never happen here. Isn't that what we used to say? The roll call serves as a grim reminder, evoking a visceral response in those who've seen the images of carnage and destruction: New York City, Tokyo, Oklahoma City, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Tanzania, Washington DC, Shanksville PA. It could happen anywhere. Thousands of dead and injured. Thousands. It could happen here. In Rochester, NY. The threat of a mass casualty incident (MCI) involving weapons of mass destruction increases as each day passes. Planning for such an incident involves bringing together many agencies and disciplines to develop a coherent and comprehensive response.

In September 2000, the Fire Department entered into a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). The mission of the Rochester MMRS is to respond to, provide support for, and effectively address responder safety issues, incident management and the public health consequences of a nuclear, biological or chemical (NBC) incidents that results from accidental or deliberate acts. This support includes providing planning and training for response personnel prior to an NBC incident; detection, identification and monitoring of the offending substance or agent; safe extraction, decontamination, triage, treatment and transportation of victims to locally based health care systems; and forward movement of patients through the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) as needed. MMRS planning includes provisions for assistance to victims and responders in the forms of pharmacological antidotes and critical incident stress management. MMRS planning also addresses the proper decontamination, examination and disposition of persons who do not survive the incident. Rochester is among 122 cities/jurisdictions in the U.S. since 1997 to develop this capability.

Rochester's MMRS development is based on the philosophy that improving and augmenting existing emergency preparedness plans and capabilities is preferable to creating new entities. Rochester's MMRS builds on the principle that professional relationships already exist

between many of the agencies and personnel involved in response to a terrorist incident. While introduced as an effort to enhance the community response to a terrorist attack, MMRS will allow for an improved response to any incident that generates large numbers of casualties and places a stress on Rochester's emergency management system. The professional relationships developed among individuals, departments and organizations will result in long term service improvements for Rochester-area citizens.

Local, state and federal agencies with which the RFD has worked to develop MMRS include, but are not limited to: the County's Office of Emergency Preparedness, Health Dept., Fire Bureau, EMS Office and the Sheriff's Office; the RPD, NYS Police and FBI; Emergency Communications Dept.; NYS Dept. of Health and Emergency Management Office; the Dept. of Health & Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the National Disaster Medical System; Via Health, Unity Health and Lakeside Health System; Rural/Metro and Monroe Ambulances; UR; Dept. of Justice and the Public Safety Communications.

Equipment, including portable decontamination and command shelters, a bio threat alert system, infrared spectral and toxic vapor analyzers, nerve agent antidote and an assortment of other pieces of equipment have either been purchased or is expected to be purchased. All purchases have been coordinated with the City and County Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness grants and the NYS Weapons of Mass Destruction Task Force Standardized Equipment Cache System to avoid duplication of efforts. This will allow for a more effective use of resources, enhancing our community's ability to respond quickly and effectively.

As part of the MMRS development process, the Department has worked with the County Health Alert Network (HAN) and the Community Syndromic Surveillance programs, two projects funded through grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, the Department has participated in the development, implementation and testing of the county National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) Plan. NPS resources can be requested from CDC and deployed within 12 hours to a community affected by a biological or chemical incident. The RFD

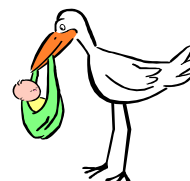
is also involved in the development of the Hospital Mutual Aid Evacuation Plan. This plan is currently under revision and when complete will involve 22 hospitals in Monroe and eight surrounding counties. Other plans developed under MMRS include the Chemical, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CRNE) Plan, the National Disaster Medical System Plan and the Public Health Emergencies Operations Plan, dealing with the effects of a bioterrorism incident.

Planning for a terrorist incident in our community began long before the wake up call of September 11. MMRS enhances the hospital and health care system component of emergency management initiatives to prepare for incidents that result in large scale destruction, loss of life and fear. These proactive efforts toward community preparedness are an essential first step in effectively responding to and minimizing the effects of any incident, whether intentional or accidental, on responders and the community.

New Arrivals

Congratulations and best wishes to...

Lt. Scott Joerger (E16/G4) and his wife Cheryl. She gave birth to a 7 lb. 3 oz., baby boy named Thomas David on June 11.



F.F. Paul Kucewicz (Q5/G3) and his wife Megan, who are the proud new parents of baby Rachel Mary. Rachel was born on September 13 and weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz., Paul is the son of F.F. Art Kucewicz (Q7/G3).

Fire Inspector Mark Scialdone and his wife, Melissa, on the birth of their baby daughter, Jane Rose. She was born on September 22 with a weight of 6 lbs., 1 oz.

Capt. John Whitehair (E7/G1) and his wife Lisa, who gave birth to baby Andrew John on October 4. Andrew weighed 5 lbs., 12 oz.

Doreen D'Imperio, wife of F.F. Tim D'Imperio (Q5/G3) and daughter-in-law of Fire Inspector Dick D'Imperio (FSA), gave birth to a 7 lb., 7 oz. boy, Nicholas Timothy, on October 7.

FBA - cont'd

raised a tidy sum of \$958.27, more than enough to serve as a foundation for a permanent fund. Later that year, as a result, the Rochester Firemen's Benevolent Association was formed and incorporated in order to manage the fund and attend to its good works. Through solicitations, charitable donations and with good management, the fund grew, and by 1847 it amounted to \$2,405.06. By 1856, it totaled \$3848.09 and by 1866 it eclipsed the \$10,000 mark.

It should be noted that the fund grew quite rapidly during this period of time due to the emergence of the "two percent foreign insurance fund" in New York state in 1849, and the winning of the ability to receive it "for the benefit of the fire department" by the benevolent association. This was accomplished through an act of the New York state legislature in 1860, although it required the reincorporation of the organization to the "Fire Department of Rochester" in order to comply with the legislated requirements. Therefore, in 1860, the Rochester Fireman's Benevolent Association ceased to exist and the "Fire Department of Rochester" organization stood in its place in order to collect the substantial monies provided by the state through the two percent fund. As a result, the association "Burial Fund" grew substantially to upwards of \$50,000 by the end of 1883.

Simply stated, the "two percent fund," as it is commonly known, is a two percent tariff on fire insurance premiums collected by New York state from insurance companies located outside of the state. The money was (and still is) distributed within the fire districts from which it was collected and was intended to benefit firefighting personnel under certain conditions which have been the subject of much debate and controversy from its inception until even today.

Receivership of the fund monies has helped determine the composition and purpose of the organization which preceded our modern day Firefighters Benevolent Association. In 1863, the old volunteer fire department of the City of Rochester was disbanded for a number of reasons. The City fathers had desired better discipline within the Department, and they would not tolerate rowdy or drunken behavior from the newly formed "paid" fire company members or from the remaining volunteer companies: Hook and Ladder (Empire) one, the Alert Hose Company and the

Protectives. Better discipline, however, was not the only incentive for change.

Another consideration was that the City again sought to enjoy the receivership of the two percent monies which it had previously collected from the state from the date that the fund came into existence in 1849 until it was wrestled away from the city treasury by the old guard of the volunteer fire organization through the aforementioned legislative act of 1860. Although the volunteer "Fire Department of Rochester" (formerly the Fireman's Benevolent Association) was unsuccessful in litigating against the City for reimbursement of the funds which it had collected during its 11 years of receivership (approximately \$13,000), there were many members of the volunteer companies who felt that the money was still rightfully theirs. The suit was unsuccessful, however, because there were just as many members of the community, particularly within City Hall, who felt that the money belonged to the City, especially since the City was paying to maintain a professional Fire Department.

There were, in fact, changes in the make up of the paid Fire Department initiated by City Hall, which tended to destabilize the organization which managed the two percent fund. As the City grew and founded more paid fire companies with more paid members, the remaining volunteer companies dwindled in membership and were in danger of being disbanded by the City, thereby possibly losing their claim to the receivership of the funds. Once again, however, the state legislature came to the rescue and decreed that the "Fire Department of Rochester" (formerly the Fireman's Benevolent Association) would establish a Board of Trustees which would be comprised only of "exempt" firemen in order to receive the two percent monies, thus keeping the fund within the volunteer organization.

In 1869, therefore, the Rochester Exempt Firemen's Association was incorporated to serve this purpose, taking receivership of the two percent fund money from the "Fire Department of Rochester," its parent entity. This meant that the City could disband active volunteers from the fire service, but as long as there were enough "exempt" members to man the Board of Trustees the city would not have a legitimate claim to the receivership of the two percent fund.

To better understand the concept of the "exempt" fireman, think of him as a retired volunteer, one who had proven his mettle as

a fireman and who would forever hold a position of social prominence in the community. Exempt status was granted to a fireman who had served as a volunteer for a minimum of five years and who, as a reward, was granted an exemption from serving jury duty and military duty, except in the case of insurrection or a foreign invasion.

Eventually, however, there were no longer enough exempt firemen in Rochester to sit on the Board of Trustees of the Exempt Fireman's Association in order to administer to the fund, let alone qualify for receivership. Therefore, around the turn of the century the City was able to litigate successfully to regain control of the two percent fund, thus bringing to a close the benevolent organization's involvement with receiving this source of income.

Meanwhile, the monies allocated to provide for the injured and deceased firemen and their families had grown to tremendous proportions over the years, under the auspices of virtually the same organization incorporated under several different names. It had purchased a permanent bed in City Hospital for injured and sick firemen in 1865 (for \$1500), it arranged for the purchase and upkeep of cemetery plots in Mt. Hope and Holy Sepulchre Cemeteries, and sponsored the construction and erection, in 1880, of the grand Fireman's Monument in the Firemen's Plot at Mt. Hope Cemetery. The monument has the inscription "Fire Department" across its base, referring to its sponsor, the entity formerly and presently known as the Benevolent Association.

In 1901, the Paid Fireman's Funeral Aid Association was incorporated to take over the duties of the nearly defunct Exempt Fireman's Association. With the loss of the two percent monies as a source of funding, the organization was able to keep up with its obligations and prudently managing the funds it had previously received and by engaging in fund raising activities such as sponsoring events featuring popular entertainers of the day. This is a tradition which was carried on well into the 1960s as the Firemen's Benefit Fund and sponsored shows which featured Chico Marx, Victor Borge, Morey Amsterdam and The McGuire Sisters, to name a few. Old timers still tell of soliciting onlookers at major "conflagrations" into purchasing tickets to the "shows."

The Benevolent Association of today is still financially sound, thanks to continued

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RFD Picture Page...

Pictured on this page, clockwise beginning with the photo at the top left: the August 2 promotion ceremony in the PSB Auditorium, pictured are, from left to right seated, Lt. Scott Wigmore, Lt. Jim Bauch, Capt. Tom May and Batt. Chief John McEneaney, standing are, EDC Bob King, Lt. Randy Marra, Lt. Sam Imburgia, Deputy Chiefs John Caufield and Bob Wegman, Lt. Willie Jackson, Deputy Chiefs Bruce Yanz and Bob Watters and Fire Chief Floyd Madison.

Top right: On September 7, a child at the Engine 13 open house dresses up like a firefighter with the help of Trainee Roland Truelove, below, Firefighters Rich Franco and Dana Peregoy help children operate a handline at the University Ave. Art Walk on September 22.

Following long and distinguished careers with the RFD, Capt. Fred DiNoto and Battalion Chief Jim McGovern will retire on October 30. Fred joined the Department on June 22, 1964 and Jim came joined on March 29, 1965. We'll miss you and the wealth of experience you brought to the Department. All the best to you and your families.



Open Houses



FBA - cont'd

good management and leadership. The School of the Holy Childhood Christmas Party, the Retirement Dinner, and the Awards Banquet all receive help financially, directly or indirectly, from the Benevolent. It offers firefighters modest, unsecured loans and provides and adequate death benefit to all its members, as well as stipends to deceased members; children during the holiday season. Although its name has changed over time, the organization's purpose has remained constant, to provide for the needs of its membership, now and in the future as it has for the past 167 years.